



Section 5: Program Partners

Getting Involved:

The National Mental Health Association and National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day



What is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services is launching an annual national initiative called "National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day." National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is designated as a day in May of each year to coincide with "May Is Mental Health Month." This day presents an opportunity for SAMHSA and children's mental health initiatives to promote resilience, recovery, and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families.

The theme of the inaugural celebration of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is "Thriving in the Community." Children's mental health initiatives will hold similar events and other activities throughout the country to build awareness that children's mental health needs are real and that progress is being made toward developing effective strategies for achieving the vision of a life in the community for everyone.

Why is NMHA participating in National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day offers NMHA affiliates an opportunity to kick off Children's Mental Health Week (May 7–13), as well as build interest in NMHA's Children's Depression Awareness Day on May 9. Additionally, NMHA welcomes the opportunity to participate in Federal initiatives that raise awareness of children's mental health issues in all of our communities.

How can NMHA affiliates get involved?

NMHA affiliates can become involved in National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in several ways. For instance, they can make partners such as schools and community organizations aware of this and other children's mental health observances. They can use the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day as a springboard for their own communication efforts with State and local officials. And they can use NMHA and SAMHSA materials throughout the year to help educate the general public about children's mental health.

Where can I get more information about National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

Information and materials on National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day are available online at www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov. You can also call NMHA at 703–684–7722 for more information.